**Chapter 1**

**Social Science and Its Methods**

Chapter Outline

1. Introduction

A. Social Science

B. Street Smarts and Book Smarts

2. Social Science

A. The Evolving Social Sciences

B. Social Science as a System of Rules

C. The History of Knowledge

7. Psychology

D. The Scientific Method and Its Application

1. Conditions Favorable to Scientific Inquiry

2. Nature of the Scientific Method

3. The Experimental Method and Its Limitations

4. The Saga of Hans, the Thinking Horse

E. Methodology and the Social Sciences

3. The Methods of Social Science

A. Social Science Approaches to Problems

1. Alternative Approaches

a. The Functionalist Theory Approach

b. The Exchange Theory Approach

c. The Conflict Theory Approach

d. The Symbolic Interaction Theory Approach

2. Alternative Methods

a. The Historical Method

b. The Case Method

c. The Comparative and Cross-Cultural Methods

C. Educated Common Sense in the Social Sciences

D. The Use of Statistics

E. The Interdisciplinary Approach

4. Social Science and Society

A. Agreeing on Policy

B. Values, Terminology, and Rhetoric

5. Conclusion

Appendix

1. Historical Roots of Social Science

A. The Enlightenment

B. From Philosophy to Social Science

**Learning Objectives**

The student should be able to:

1. Define social science and explain why it is important.

2. List the various social sciences.

3. State the nine steps that make up the scientific method.

4. Discuss some reasonable approaches to problems in social science.

5. Differentiate the historical method from the case method and the comparative method.

6. Distinguish educated common sense from common sense.

7. Explain why a good scientist is always open to new ways of looking at issues.